

CONGRESSMAN

**PAUL GOSAR**

*Representing the 1st District of Arizona*



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
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June 5, 2012  
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## **In Case You Missed It:**

### **Witness Testimony from Arizona Field Hearing**

Congressman Paul Gosar, D.D.S (R-AZ), a member of the House Subcommittee on Water and Power, was joined by subcommittee Chairman Tom McClintock (R-CA) and Congressman David Schweikert recently held a field hearing entitled, “Evaporating Prosperity: How Federal Actions Are Driving Up Water and Power Costs, Threatening Jobs and Leaving Arizonans High and Dry”. Two sets of witnesses testified on the mishandling of Arizona’s forests and the over-regulation of the Environmental Protection Agency especially pertaining to the Navajo Generation Station.

Multiple witnesses testified on the federal government's mismanagement of Arizona national forests. Rural Arizona has been victim to some of the worst wildfires in U.S. history. Last year, nearly one million acres of Arizona’s forests burned. Over half of that acreage was charred by the Wallow Fire, the largest fire in Arizona's history. This year's fire season is expected to be difficult as well. Since late April, over 45,000 acres of forest in Arizona have been destroyed due to wildfires

**Arizona State Senator Gail Griffin** said, “In my district that borders Mexico we have to deal with tires burning in landfills across the border. Arizona is a desert and we have wind and dust storms that are Acts of God and out of our control. The one size fits all policies that are expected from the Environmental Protection Agency and other federal agencies/departments do not work here. We in Arizona know how to properly manage our lands, our water, our air and our lives. State authority and states right are being usurped by federal agencies.”

**Andrew Groseta, President Arizona Cattlemen’s Association** went on to say, “It is long past due that we take immediate action to correct federal land management to create a balanced model that recognizes communities, economies, industry, recreation, habitat and wildlife. It is possible and can be done but we have to be sure that it is driven by local residents that live and work with the consequences of decisions made from DC. The bottom line is our forest desperately needs on the ground management and for that we need man to return to our forest with chainsaws and cows. It is imperative that we actively manage the renewable resources that we have been provided before we allow Mother Nature to do it for us.”

The Committee also heard from witnesses regarding the Environmental Protection Agency proposed regulations on the Navajo Generation Station (NGS), an issue Congressman Gosar has been intently focused on since coming into office.

The federal action threatens over 3,000 jobs and could cost Arizona over \$20 billion in lost gross state product. As a chief supplier of electricity in the State and the power supply to the Central Arizona Project, Arizona's primary water delivery system, NGS's closure would increase costs for water and power consumers and endanger current and future Indian water right settlements.

**State Representative Amanda A. Reeve, Chairwoman of the Arizona House Committee on the Environment testified** said "ADEQ and EPA fundamentally disagree on what constitutes as BART. According to ADEQ, "Low-NOx burners" and "over fire air" technologies, both of which NGS recently had installed, are adequate emission controls. However, EPA is requiring that facilities retrofit with selective catalytic reduction ("SCR") technologies, which is far more costly than those technologies of which ADEQ approves. ADEQ states that studies of the SCR technologies do not provide sufficient evidence that it is superior or more effective in reducing emissions and improving visibility."

**Governor Gregory Mendoza of the Gila River Indian Community** in Sacaton, Arizona said "NGS supplies approximately 95% of the power to deliver the CAP water to the Community and other CAP customers. Requiring NGS to install and operate SCR technology as BART will both significantly increase the cost of CAP water and decrease the future revenue generated for the Development Fund. These two impacts will substantially undermine the benefits that the Community specifically bargained for and relied upon in agreeing to settle our water claims and claims against the United States."

**John Sullivan, Associate General Manager & Chief Resources Executive of the Salt River Project** testified that "The Navajo Generating Station and the mine provide far reaching economic benefits to the state of Arizona as a whole. The NGS and the mine will contribute over \$20 billion to Arizona's economy between 2011 and 2044, and contribute over 3,000 jobs each year throughout the state. In addition to providing electricity for millions of customers in the Southwest, NGS also provides 95% of the power used by CAWCD to pump water from the Colorado River to central Arizona. It provides funds for the repayment of the cost of constructing the Central Arizona Project (CAP), and for water rights settlements with multiple central Arizona Indian Tribes. In short, NGS cannot be simply or easily replaced."